



Flathead Conservation District
133 Interstate Lane, Kalispell, MT 59901
Phone: 406-752-4220 Fax: 406-752-4077
Web site: www.flatheadcd.org

CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE

Chairman Ronald Buentemeier called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the conference room.

Board members present: Ronald Buentemeier, Chairman; Pete Woll, Vice Chairman; Camisha Sawtelle, Secretary/Treasurer; Dean Sirucek, Supervisor; John Ellis, Supervisor; Mark Siderius, Supervisor; Verdell Jackson, Supervisor being a quorum of the Board.

Also in attendance were: Lori Curtis, Associate Supervisor; Valerie Kurth, FCD staff; Sarah Bowman, Big Sky Watershed Corps and FCD; Marcel Quinn; Mikel Siemens; Tim Darr; Tom Esch; Franz Ingelfinger, Fish Wildlife & Parks; Kathy Olsen, DNRC; Samantha Tappenbeck, Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana; John Stalow; Caitlin Overland, Flathead County Attorney's Office; Jamie Dillon, Big Sky Watershed Corps; Don Murray; Angel Rosario, NRCS.

MINUTES

Dean Sirucek made a motion "to approve the September 12, 2016, 310-Stream Permit minutes of the meeting as presented." John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Email: Montana Invasive Species Advisory Council will hold listening sessions across the state during September & October. Contact: McCone CD
mcconecd@macdnet.org
 2. Email: September 22 issue of *The Montana Conservationist*. Go to:
www.swcdmi.org
 3. Email: September/October 2016 issue of *Grazing Lands News*. Go to:
www.grazinglands.org
 4. Email: Summer 2016 issue of *Forestry Notes*. Go to: www.forestrynotes.com
 5. Email: Montana Watershed Conservation Corp symposium, October 24-26, Billings. Contact Dylan Graves, Park CD, dylangraves24@gmail.com
 6. Email: Through a cooperative agreement with the Army Corps of Engineers, Montana DNRC is compiling a list of projects that fit within Section 4007 of the 2014 Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA). RESPEC is under contract with DNRC to compile this list. Information on recent, current or potential projects along Montana's rivers that create ecologically resilient river systems which mitigate the effects of floods and droughts is requested. The types of projects must fall into one of these six categories:
 - Floodplain restoration and reconnection
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- Floodplain and riparian area protection through the use of conservation easements
- Instream flow restoration projects
- Fish passage improvements
- Channel migration zone mapping
- Invasive weed management in riparian and wetland areas

If you have projects in your area that you would like to include in the study please fill out the survey: <https://goo.gl/forms/1CA9wXBTh51Wdn3e2> by September 28th. Contact Jeff Dunn jeff.dunn@respec.com or Ann Schwend, DNRC Upper Missouri Basin Water Planner, 406-444-1806, aschwend@mt.gov

7. Email: MACDEO September 16, 2016 Quarterly Meeting Minutes. Contact mcconecd@macdnet.org
8. Email: List of upcoming Storm Water classes which will be held across the state. Contact info@altitudeta.com
9. Email: Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana (SWCDM) will hold *Soil Health Workshops* in October and January throughout the state. Contact: ann@macdnet.org
10. Email: *Draft* Charter for the Clark Fork Basin Council and October 5 meeting agenda. Contact Erin Farris-Olsen erin@mtwatersheds.org
11. Email: Notice from Montana Dept. of Agriculture. Certified forage is required when hunting on public lands. Go to: www.agr.mt.gov

FINANCIAL

The following bills were reviewed:

1. CenturyLink \$261.08
2. MontanaSky Networks \$20.00
3. RESPEC \$325.00
4. Susan D. Hulslander, CPA \$270.00
5. VISA \$1525.74

Mark Siderius made a motion “to approve the bills as presented.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No one was present to comment on items not on the agenda.

RIVER STEWARD PROGRAM: Franz Ingelfinger, FWP, and James Dillon, BSWC introduced themselves to the board and gave an update on the River Steward program. Franz thanked the board for its support of the program and invited supervisors to participate in current and future restoration projects. He is especially interested in projects that will broaden the scope of the program.



310's

LANDMARK LN RD USERS, FL2016049, Unnamed, culvert: Discussion held. Pete Woll made a motion "to approve the application with modifications per Leo Rosenthal's and Pete Woll's team member reports, and per information received from Mr. Darr on September 26, 2016. The 15-day waiting period is waived." Camisha Sawtelle seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

STALOWY, FL2016050, Bear Creek, ATF application: Don Murray distributed a memorandum to the supervisors and summarized the main points. Marcel Quinn responded to the documents that had been submitted to FCD prior to the meeting. Tom Esch presented a statement on behalf of his client, Brig Klyce. The Board asked questions of Marcel Quinn and Mikel Siemens about the project. Discussion held.

Pete Woll made a motion "to table the application until he, Ronald Buentemeier and Valerie Kurth can sit down together and delineate out the perimeter of the dredging in Beaver Lake." Mark Siderius seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

WATERSHED RESTORATION PLAN (WRP): Sarah Bowman, Big Sky Watershed Corps (BSWC), gave the following WRP Progress update:

Drafted Sections:

- Introduction:
 - Brief description of a Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP)
 - Lists EPA's 9 elements of a WRP
 - Introduces the Flathead Conservation District
 - Describes the purpose and scope of plan
 - Describes the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)
 - Describes local organizations and agencies (table)
 - Table and GIS figure of Flathead-Stillwater impaired waters plus "streams of concern"
- Identifying the watershed area and pollutant sources
 - Description of Flathead-Stillwater TMDL planning area
 - GIS mapping characterizations (land cover, population)
 - Causes and sources of pollution identified for each pollutant (sediment, nutrients, temperature)
 - Descriptions of non-pollutant impairments
 - Identifying other potential water quality pollutants and threats (NPS pollutants without a current TMDL, AIS, noxious weeds, residential and urban development)
 - Short description of permitted sources of point-source pollution
 - Short description of NPS pollutions causes and sources on streams of concern and connections to listed streams
- Identifying Best Management Practices and Expected Reductions
 - Tables showing estimated load reductions for each pollutant on each stream (taken from TMDL document)
 - Expanded descriptions of NPS Management Measures



- General NPS pollution BMP's
 - Specific BMP suggestions for nutrients, sediment, and temperature pollutants
 - Other important conservation management measures (AIS management, critical lands protection/conservation, noxious weed management, additional research projects to complete)
 - Ideas on how to engage community stakeholders
- Identifying Technical and Financial Assistance
 - Identifies potential local watershed group/agency partners interested in NPS pollution
 - Identifies other potential partners and local private stakeholders
 - Identifies engineering/physical assistance (volunteer groups, educational groups)
 - Overview of financial assistance and table of potential funding sources
- Developing an Information and Education Component
 - Describes current FCD programs, events and partnerships that foster education and outreach activities
 - Lists ideas for more outreach and educational events to partake in or to implement for general community outreach, partner coordination, and youth education
- Identifying and Implementing Restoration Projects
 - Description of implementation plan and identification of criteria for potential 319 funded projects
 - Implementation schedule (in progress)
 - Implementation plans described by stream (in progress)
- Evaluating Progress and Success
 - Identify short- and long-term goals
 - Identify achievable milestones (in progress)
 - Identify monitoring objectives, techniques, and partners to help with project monitoring
- Drafted a webpage for the FCD website with information about the WRP
- Worked with Flathead Beacon to create a brochure about NPS Pollution
- Created new trifold boards about the WRP for NW MT Fair (can be used for other events)

Recent Meetings: (since April 1st)

- 7/27 – Met with Eric Trum and Buffalo Hills Golf Course board members to conduct a site visit to their property to view erosion issues along Stillwater River and discuss Section 319 funding application
- 8/25 – Met with Constanza and Robin (Flathead Lakers) to go through their suggestions on WRP edits
- 9/14 – R2L Quarterly Meeting – Gave an update on WRP status
- 9/24 – Ashley Creek Restoration Tour – was unable to attend but provided information about the WRP for Valerie to relay.

Other BSWC Member Activities

- Ashley Creek Flow Sampling – 7/1, 7/13, 7/26, 8/12
- Assisted Whitefish Lake Institute with Tally Lake water sampling – 7/8



- Assisted Tabitha Graves (USGS scientist) with Huckleberry study in Glacier National Park – 7/12
- Visited Haskill Creek and conducted site maintenance with Valerie and Sam Tappenbeck – 7/13
- Attended Flathead Lakers Annual meeting – 7/27
- Attended Spotted Knapweed Biocontrol Workshop with Valerie – 8/9
- Attended Rolling Rivers Trailer Training with Valerie – 8/10
- Assisted with setting up and manning the FCD booth at NW MT Fair – 8/16-8/21
- Attended Krause Creek landowner meeting - 9/14
- Will attend MACD Area 5 Meeting – 9/27

What's Next?

- Finish drafting the implementation section and identifying achievable milestones for measuring project success– Draft WRP will be completed by end of September
- WRP Editing – completed in final draft by October 31, turned in to DEQ in beginning of November
- Creating a poster and short presentation about WRP for AWRA and MWCC conferences
 - AWRA Conference: October 13-14
 - MWCC Symposium: October 24-26
- Attend Big Sky Stream Restoration Workshop: October 20-21
- Attend MACD/BSWC Member Graduation November 16-18
- **Last day in FCD office as BSWC member: November 15**

AIS FUNDING REQUEST: Discussion held. Dean Sirucek made a motion “to approve \$8000 to the Flathead Basin Commission for AIS administration and station support.” Camisha Sawtelle seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

FLATHEAD RIVER COMMISSION AD FUNDING REQUEST: Mark Siderius presented a request for advertising funds for the Flathead River Commission. Mark Siderius made a motion “to approve \$303.70 to the Flathead River Commission for advertising.” Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

TRUMBULL FLOOD CERTIFICATION: Discussion held. Dean Sirucek made a motion “to approve the Trumbull Creek Floodplain Permit Compliance Certification.” Pete Woll seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

MONTANA WATERSHED CONSERVATION CORP (MWCC) SYMPOSIUM: Valerie Kurth presented a request to attend the MWCC symposium. Pete Woll made a motion “to pay for Valerie’s travel to the MWCC symposium in Billings.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

MACD DUES LETTER: Discussion held. Verdell Jackson made a motion “to approve the MACD dues letter.” Mark Siderius seconded. Motion carried unanimously.



BUDGET: The August End of Month report was reviewed with the board. Discussion held. Dean Sirucek made a motion “to approve the August 2016 End of Month report.” Camisha Sawtelle seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

NRCS REPORT: Angél Rosario reported:

EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program)

- Follow up visits and Practice Certifications
- Field Inventories of new applications
- Quality Assurance Reviews

ACEP (Agricultural Conservation Easement Program)

- Lost Trail Project update

Other

- Pasture/Soil Health Seminar in Baker
- Soil Health Workshops
- MT Land Reliance Ag Forum
- River Steward Riparian Promo Video

RESOURCE CONSERVATIONIST REPORT: Valerie Kurth reported:

District Office and Outreach

1. September advertisements: Educator workshops (Project Learning Tree and Sourcebook Curriculum Guide) and seedling program.
2. I continue to facilitate communication among DNRC, FWP, DEQ, Don McIntyre, Caitlin Overland, and the representatives for the landowner and the complainants in regard to the Stalowy 310. I participated in the onsite visit on September 21st.
3. I wrote and assembled the FCD annual report for the upcoming Area V meeting.

Educator Workshops

I am helping to coordinate two educator workshops this fall: Project Learning Tree (preschool – grade 2) and the Flathead Watershed Sourcebook Educators’ Guide. The workshops both are in October, so I have been reaching out to educators (email and flyers delivered to schools), making arrangements for their professional development credits, and gathering supplies.

Haskill Basin Watershed Council (HBWC)

Camisha Sawtelle and I travelled to Lewistown to present HBWC’s HB223 grant application to the Resource Conservation Advisory Committee (RCAC). John Phelps, from HBWC, participated via phone. Members of RCAC had questions about our application, and it was very helpful to interact with them in person. The grant was funded for the full amount of \$16,000, and I expect to receive the agreement from DNRC this week. The HBWC met on September 21st.

Krause Creek

Samantha Tappenbeck, from Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana, and I collaborated to organize a landowner outreach meeting on September 14th at Mountain Brook Community Library. I was ill that day, but Samantha led the meeting, which included the background on FCD’s involvement and an overview of the consultant’s report. There



was also discussion of forming a watershed group. Approximately 25 landowners attended the meeting, and the information was well-received.

River Steward/River to Lake Initiative

1. I was interviewed for a short outreach video being made for the River Steward program.
2. The third annual River Restoration tour was on September 24th at a project site on Ashley Creek. Twenty-two people attended the tour, including five Ashley Creek landowners and representatives from FWP, DNRC, FCD, Montana Land Reliance, and Flathead Lakers.

Seedling Program

The DNRC nursery in Missoula is now accepting orders. So far, we have received inquiries from three landowners about the program.

Whitefish Lake Institute (WLI) East Lakeshore wastewater management project

WLI is initiating a preliminary engineering report (PER) for the East Lakeshore area with regard to the septic leachate project. They requested proposals from qualified firms for engineering and grant administration services for improvements to wastewater management in the East Lakeshore neighborhood. Eight proposals were received, and I served on the review committee, which involved reviewing and scoring the proposals.

Vacancy Update

FCD received 184 applications. I reviewed all of the applications and narrowed down the candidate pool to 25 people. I issued a short-answer assessment to the people in this pool last week, and, based on their responses, I have come up with a pool of 14. I will meet with the hiring committee later this week to narrow down the final pool and develop a timeline for going forward.

SOURCEBOOK CURRICULUM PROJECT: Lori Curtis submitted the following report:
CORE Watershed Education Committee: Flathead Watershed Sourcebook Curriculum Development Project - Phase V Activities Status

A. Funding

Total Project Funds Needed	\$27,630
Total Funding Committed	<u>\$11,500</u>
Balance to be Funded	\$16,130

Total Possible Additional Funds	<u>\$ 8,500</u>
Balance to Raise	\$ 7,630

B. Launch

The Educators' Guide will be launched during the Montana Education Association Conference at a CORE sponsored workshop on October 21st at the Elrod Meeting Room of the Flathead Lake Biological Station. The workshop is approved for continuing education credits for teachers and has been marketed accordingly.

HASKILL BASIN WATERSHED COUNCIL (HBWC): Camisha Sawtelle reported that Marcia "Rockett" VanWye resigned from the HBWC board, and the group is recruiting a new board member.



FLATHEAD BASIN COMMISSION REPORT: No report

FLATHEAD COUNTY PLANNING BOARD: Dean Sirucek reported that there was a long discussion on the floodplain regulations. Staff proposal was forwarded to the County Commissioners.

MACD REPORT: No report.

WHITEFISH CITY PLANNING BOARD: John Ellis reported the September meeting was cancelled.

FLATHEAD RIVER COMMISSION: Mark Siderius reported that the last meeting did not have a quorum and only contained informal discussion.

CLARK FORK TASK FORCE: Verdell Jackson reported that the group will meet on October 4th, but he cannot attend.

MATTERS OF THE BOARD/STAFF – None.

The next 310-Stream Permit meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 11, 2016, 7:00 P.M. in the conference room of the USDA building at 133 Interstate Lane, Kalispell, MT.

ADJOURNMENT: Dean Sirucek made a motion “to adjourn.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously. As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:41 P.M.

Submitted By: Valerie Kurth, Resource Conservationist

Minutes approved by FCD Board motion made on:

<u>10/24/2016</u>	<u>Ronald Buentemeier</u>	<u>Chairman</u>
(Date)	(Signature)	(Title - Chairman, Vice-Chairman, etc.)

